



## ***SCORP at a Glance*—Executive Summary**

### **An Overview of Arizona's 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

This five-year update of Arizona's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is in accordance with the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, which was enacted in 1964 to encourage the provision of greater recreation opportunities for American citizens. Arizona receives annual congressional appropriations from LWCF administered through the Arizona State Parks Board to fund state and local government sponsored outdoor recreation projects.

#### **The 2008 SCORP is Arizona's Outdoor Recreation Policy Plan.**

##### ***SCORP's key uses are:***

- Establish outdoor recreation priorities for Arizona that will help outdoor recreation and natural resource managers at all levels of government, the state legislature, and the executive branch make decisions about the state's outdoor recreation sites, programs and infrastructure.
- Set evaluation criteria to allocate the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and state Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund grants consistent with the state's outdoor recreation priorities identified in this plan.
- Provide outdoor recreation managers with guidance and information to use for more specific recreation planning and budgeting.
- Encourage a better, highly integrated outdoor recreation system throughout Arizona that balances recreation and protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Strengthen the awareness of the connections between outdoor recreation with health benefits and a thriving economy.

## ARIZONA'S PRIORITY OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES

Each State's plan must identify outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance based upon, but not limited to, input from the public participation program. The **nine priority issues for outdoor recreation in Arizona** are based on numerous core issues identified through the SCORP planning process and the online and telephone surveys of recreation providers and the general public. The 2008 SCORP Work Group and the State Parks Planning and Grants staff consolidated the information into nine priority issues. The nine issues and their goals and action strategies are described in more detail in Chapter 7.

### Secure Sustainable Funding

Existing levels of outdoor recreation funding for planning, land acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation and staffing are inadequate to meet the recreation needs of Arizona's residents and visitors. Increasing population, heavy use and inadequate maintenance are taking their toll on our recreation systems statewide. Moneys for ongoing maintenance as well as for new developments are crucial. Creative strategies that include a diverse array of sustainable funding sources, grants and public/private partnerships need to be developed.

### Plan for Growth/ Secure Open Space

As Arizona's population increases, the demand for recreational opportunities and open space grows, but the land to provide those opportunities is decreasing due to changing land uses and explosive residential and commercial development. State Trust land is a key variable for Arizona's growth. Identifying key lands and their access points and acquiring them before development should be an integral part of growth planning, providing a foundation for parks and other outdoor recreation facilities, open space and natural areas, and is typically less expensive than acquiring them later. Not all land is equal—it is important to define beforehand the type of parkland or open space desired and the purpose(s) for which it will be used.

### Lands

### Resolve Conflicts

As the sheer numbers of recreationists increase and demand for different activities grows, managing the resource impacts and conflicts that develop between these uses will become an increasingly important issue of public policy. Conflicts occur because of competition between different types of recreational users and between recreational uses and other land uses. The cause of these conflicts must be acknowledged and fair and equitable strategies for resolution identified and implemented. This cannot happen without involving all affected parties.

### Improve Collaborative Planning and Partnerships

The lands people recreate on in Arizona are owned by a multitude of government agencies, organizations and private landowners, usually in the context of a checkerboard pattern, often creating confusion and inconsistent opportunities and regulations. When organizations actively network and pursue opportunities for collaborative planning and partnerships:

- cost sharing leverages additional funds, enabling resources and staff time to go farther,
- redundancy in facilities regionally is reduced,
- local trail systems are connected creating regional systems and access problems are reduced,
- conflicts between land uses and between recreational users are reduced, and
- technical assistance and communication are better able to help protect the state's natural and cultural resources at the landscape scale.

### **Respond to the Needs of Special Populations and Changing Demographics**

Arizona's population is aging and, at the same time, the state's ethnic and cultural diversity is growing. Young people's recreational interests are changing due to a number of factors, including recent innovations in technology and electronics. These demographic trends may require changes in how we provide outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities. Facilities need to be planned with "universal access" in mind so people of all abilities can participate in outdoor recreation. Creative outdoor programs and opportunities for nature appreciation and exploration must be offered in a deliberate approach to reconnect children with the outdoors. Parks must remain relevant to changing demographics if they're going to be used and funded.

### **Fill the Gaps Between Supply and Demand**

Increasing population, rapid development and leapfrog communities are expanding towns and cities ahead of their ability to provide necessary infrastructure and desired amenities such as parks, trails and open space. Local communities and the state need to be proactive in planning and providing for future recreation demand, not as an afterthought. New parklands, trail corridors and open space within new developments and near growing population centers need to be identified, acquired, and developed to meet this demand earlier in the process.

### **Secure Access to Public Lands and Across State Trust Lands**

Public access to outdoor recreation sites on state and federal lands is challenged by new residential developments, closures of private and State Trust lands, the capacity of our statewide transportation infrastructure, and the limited ability of the natural resources to accommodate the increasing demand. There is a growing need to protect, maintain, and increase access to public lands and across State Trust lands to allow for the greatest diversity of outdoor recreational uses. Public access programs should also be paired with education efforts regarding land stewardship, environmental ethics and responsible use.

### **Protect Arizona's Natural And Cultural Resources**

Arizona's natural and cultural resources are at risk from increasing human activities, including recreational activities, as well as natural events exacerbated by human influences such as wildfires, flooding, erosion and pollution. The need for protection and sustainability of natural and cultural landscapes and our capability to be stewards of those resources must be considered when agencies and communities plan for and manage the location and scope of many outdoor recreation activities and motorized and nonmotorized trail networks. One way to enlist the public in resource protection, in direct actions and in support, is to provide opportunities for them to learn about, appreciate and experience these resources.

### **Communicate with and Educate the Public**

One of the biggest complaints of the recreating public is lack of easily accessible information or awareness about recreation areas, access points and opportunities, especially up-to-date maps and guides. The public also needs to have viable opportunities for input prior to any final land use decisions. One of the biggest challenges for land managers is to find creative ways to inform the public about Arizona's unique environments, its recreational opportunities, how to safely and responsibly enjoy public lands, and to productively involve them in management decisions and actions.

**ARIZONA'S OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS—Grant Rating Criteria**

The information presented in Chapter 8 details the Open Project Selection Process used to make funding decisions for the state Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Heritage Fund and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs administered by Arizona State Parks. Information includes program information, a program time schedule, guidelines used for the LRSP/LWCF programs and the rating points given for each of the rating criteria.

The guidelines for the LRSP/LWCF programs are based on the results of the SCORP planning process and task force meetings to gather public input. The LRSP/LWCF grant programs run concurrently and follow the same application, rating and award process.

The Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB) adopted a new vision for the agency in 2004 emphasizing that part of the agency's mission to not only manage the state's *recreational* resources but also its *natural and cultural resources*. The ASPB directed staff to implement this vision throughout its parks and programs, including the numerous grant programs administered by the agency.

**Vision:** *Arizona State Parks will be recognized locally and nationally as the outstanding resource management organization.*

The grant rating criteria for the LRSP and LWCF programs reflects this new vision as well as the priority issues identified in the 2008 SCORP.

<b><u>LRSP and LWCF GRANT RATING CRITERIA SUMMARY</u></b>		<b><u>Points</u></b>
<b>I. Long-Range Planning</b>	.....	<b>20</b>
<b>II. Project Need (Project Specific Planning/Public Involvement)</b>	.....	<b>35</b>
<b>III. Conservation of Resources</b>	.....	<b>20</b>
a) Implementation of conservation actions, <i>or</i>		
b) Protection of existing resources		
<b>IV. Leveraging Funds through Donations</b>	.....	<b>5</b>
<b>V. Project Sustainability</b>	.....	<b>10</b>
<b>VI. Past Grant Administrative Compliance</b>	.....	<b>10</b>
- Administrative Performance		4
- Post-Completion Compliance		4
- Workshop Attendance		2
<b>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</b>	.....	<b>100</b>

This 2008 update of Arizona's SCORP serves as the State's outdoor recreation policy plan. It is intended to guide outdoor recreation managers and decision-makers on policy and funding issues. The plan provides decision-makers and outdoor recreation managers a thoughtful analysis of the most significant outdoor recreation issues facing Arizona today and suggests strategies to address these issues during the next five years.

The nine priority issues outlined in this plan offer a good starting point to make forward-moving positive changes regarding Arizona's current outdoor recreation situation. It is hoped that the information contained herein will provoke agencies and organizations to review existing policies, programs and directions and be open to exploring new ideas and strategies to improve the quality of life of all Arizonans. The ultimate goal is the provision of meaningful and relevant outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities within individual communities and throughout Arizona that meet the expectations and changing needs of a dynamic society.



*Horseback riding through the aspens,  
Little Eldon Springs Horse Camp  
near Flagstaff.*

## CHAPTER OVERVIEW

**Chapter 1** describes the LWCF and SCORP background information and provides details about Arizona State Parks' grant programs.

**Chapter 2** outlines the planning process used for the 2008 SCORP update. This process included a 17-member steering committee of recreation and natural resource professionals representing a wide range of backgrounds, an online survey of recreation providers, a telephone survey of Arizona households, trends research, and public meetings.

**Chapter 3** highlights the importance of parks, open space and outdoor recreation including benefits to people's physical and mental health, to the local economy, to the environment, and to a community's social structure. It also includes a challenge to planners and community leaders to clearly define the desired goals for acquiring and protecting specific parcels of land for open space to ensure its functionability for uses such as recreation, scenic views or wildlife habitat.

**Chapter 4** provides a picture of Arizona's current outdoor recreation situation and the trends that influence and shape recreation participation, programs and facilities. This chapter also summarizes several other Arizona outdoor recreation-related reports regarding tourism, trails (motorized and nonmotorized), boating, hunting and fishing, wetlands and historic preservation.

**Chapter 5** describes the regional context in which the SCORP survey data is presented. Arizona is divided into six Councils of Governments based on county boundaries (Figure 19).

**Chapter 6** details the findings of the two SCORP surveys. The survey results lay the foundation for the 2008 SCORP and its priority issues, and guide the development of the rating criteria for the LWCF and Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund grant programs.

**Chapter 7** details the *nine priority outdoor recreation issues* identified for Arizona through the SCORP planning process and lists the goals and some strategic actions to address each issue.

**Chapter 8** outlines the grant rating criteria, called the Open Project Selection Process, and the timeline and process for submitting and receiving a grant. The rating criteria incorporate many of the priority issues outlined in the previous chapter.



## WHAT THE PUBLIC HAD TO SAY ABOUT OUTDOOR RECREATION

To gather current information on outdoor recreation participation, trends and issues, Arizona State Parks partnered with Arizona State University to conduct two surveys in 2006. The first was an online survey targeting outdoor recreation providers and land managers. The second was a telephone survey targeting Arizona households. The answers from all survey participants are listed by the state as a whole and divided by the region where the participant lives. For this plan, the regions are the six county-based planning regions called Council of Governments (COGs). COGs are made up of the city, town and county governments inside the COG boundaries and assist with issues and programs that cross jurisdictions. The responses in this overview are from the public telephone survey.

### Population and Acreage of Arizona's Six Planning Regions: Council of Governments (COGs)

COG (and counties)	Number of Survey Participants	2005 Population	Percent of AZ Population	Total Acres of Land	Percent of AZ Land
<b>CAAG</b> (Gila, Pinal)	106	301,105	4.98%	6,504,068	8.92%
<b>MAG</b> (Maricopa)	355	3,648,545	60.36%	5,902,107	8.1%
<b>NACOG</b> (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai)	200	519,395	8.59%	30,674,683	42.04%
<b>PAG</b> (Pima)	251	957,635	15.84%	5,877,511	8.06%
<b>SEAGO</b> (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz)	120	219,600	3.63%	8,919,249	12.24%
<b>WACOG</b> (La Paz, Mohave, Yuma)	206	398,705	6.6%	15,053,540	20.64%
<b>statewide</b>	1,238	6,044,985	100%	72,931,158	100%

### Interest in Outdoor Recreation

To begin the phone survey of Arizona residents, people were asked how interested they were in outdoor recreation activities. Seven percent (7%) said they were not interested at all and 45% said they were very interested; the remainder expressed varying levels of interest. The mean level of interest of public respondents statewide was 3.93 (on a 1 to 5 scale).

### Importance of Recreation Settings

When asked the importance of different recreation settings (on a scale of 1 *not important* to 5 *extremely important*), respondents ranked all four settings very high, however, the responses statewide were noticeably higher in support of two settings: *large nature-oriented parks* (4.27), and *open spaces in a natural setting* (4.25). There were some differences in regional responses.

### Importance of Recreation Settings by Planning Regions: Mean Value 1-5 scale

Recreation Setting	Statewide	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG
Large, nature-oriented parks with few buildings primarily used for hiking, picnicking or camping	4.27	4.33	4.27	4.23	4.32	4.33	4.19
Open spaces in natural settings with very little development	4.25	4.40	4.18	4.45	4.27	4.22	4.07
Large, developed parks with many facilities and uses	3.87	3.87	4.02	3.59	3.80	3.90	3.96
Small neighborhood parks that have only a few facilities	3.61	3.56	3.63	3.57	3.62	3.61	3.64

### Proximity of Residence to Parks

Understanding the proximity of people's homes to parks is an important aspect of recreation planning. While people may travel considerable distances to their "favorite" area, most people spend the majority of their leisure time, such as at the start or end of a work day or a few hours on the weekend, at sites close to home. Distance becomes a key factor for these "quick" trips on whether or not to visit a local park, trail or recreation area.

Respondents were asked several questions concerning how close people live to parks and recreation facilities. The majority of people said they lived close to the nearest park; the mean was 6 miles, or 11 minutes from home.

Question: "How far is the nearest park from your home?"	Very Close	← Scale →				Very Far	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
Percent who responded on a 1-5 scale of proximity	46.5%	20.7%	17.7%	6.5%	8.7%		2.1
Proximity to the nearest park (statewide average in miles)	1.73 mi	4.58 mi	9.34 mi	9.79 mi	25.72 mi		6.11 mi
Proximity to the nearest park (statewide average in minutes)	4.84 min	9.03 min	16.57 min	15.67 min	32.53 min		10.85 min

### Funding Priorities

Another important aspect of recreation planning is funding. Respondents were asked how their local parks and recreation departments should spend the limited funds they receive.

While all five funding categories ranked very high, *maintaining existing outdoor facilities* was definitely the highest rated priority, nearly 64% rated it extremely important. The second most important was *acquiring land for open space and natural areas*, 51% rated it as extremely important.

Importance of Funding Categories	Not at all Important	← Scale →				Extremely Important	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintaining existing facilities	1.3%	2.0%	9.8%	23.3%	63.5%		4.46
Renovating existing outdoor recreation facilities	3.3%	5.0%	21.1%	25.5%	45.1%		4.04
Acquiring land for open space and natural areas	5.9%	7.1%	15.7%	20.1%	51.1%		4.03
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities	4.0%	7.3%	23.4%	24.8%	40.5%		3.9
Acquiring land for more parks and recreation areas	6.4%	7.6%	21.7%	21.0%	43.2%		3.87

## Outdoor Recreation Issues

Recreation issues are another major area of concern for recreation planners and providers. In the public survey, respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with twelve statements about outdoor recreation and related issues such as growth, user conflicts, access and resource protection. They were also asked how satisfied they were with their community's parks and open space.

Overall, the recreation issues that received the greatest levels of agreement, in terms of mean values, were related to neighborhood parks and open space. By a significant margin, the strongest agreement for all Arizonans was *the desire to have open space near a person's home*. While each person may define open space a little differently, the presence of nearby parks, recreation areas and natural environments seems to be a top priority for most people in choosing which house to purchase. The second highest agreed upon statement was that *parks and recreation areas in a person's community were well-maintained*.

Level of Agreement with Issue Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
If I bought a house in my community, having open space nearby would be a top priority	6.1%	7.0%	19.6%	17.4%	49.9%		3.98
The parks and recreation areas in my community are generally well-maintained	7.0%	7.6%	20.3%	33.1%	32.0%		3.76
Increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have enough parks, open space and natural areas in my community	12.4%	11.0%	19.5%	17.1%	39.9%		3.61
Access to public recreation lands in my area is adequate	8.4%	9.3%	25.5%	25.9%	31.0%		3.62
I'm satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds in my community	16.7%	13.8%	21.7%	19.2%	28.5%		3.29
I'm satisfied with the amount of natural areas and open space in my community	15.3%	13.9%	23.6%	19.7%	27.5%		3.3
There is a lack of recreation opportunities in my area for people with special needs	16.6%	14.5%	26.5%	15.4%	27.1%		3.22
Natural and cultural resources in my area are negatively affected by recreational uses	30.3%	22.0%	26.0%	12.3%	9.5%		2.49
In general, people have sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment	27.4%	27.2%	25.1%	11.3%	8.9%		2.47
My outdoor recreation experience is often negatively impacted by other recreation users	34.3%	23.4%	22.2%	8.7%	11.4%		2.4
Providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources	39.9%	23.0%	23.1%	5.6%	8.4%		2.2
Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users are a problem in my area	44.1%	21.6%	15.7%	8.1%	10.4%		2.19



## Benefits of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

The perceived benefits of recreation can be linked directly to the “**quality of life**” of individuals within a larger community. The following thirteen statements regarding the potential benefits of parks and recreation areas were used as indicators of quality of life for residents in Arizona. Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed, on a 1 to 5 scale, with the statements regarding the benefits of outdoor recreation.

Level of Agreement with Benefit Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree ← → Agree			Strongly Agree	
<i>Statement: “Parks, recreation areas and open space benefit my area because they . . .”</i>	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
Promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity	1.7%	2.1%	10.7%	22.8%	62.8%	4.43
Provide opportunities for family interaction	1.6%	2.1%	9.8%	24.6%	61.7%	4.43
Make cities and regions better places to live	2.1%	2.9%	11.6%	23.5%	59.9%	4.36
Provide constructive activities for youth	3.6%	4.5%	15.9%	26.3%	49.7%	4.14
Increase community pride	2.7%	4.1%	19.0%	27.9%	46.3%	4.11
Promote mental health	5.4%	4.4%	15.9%	24.6%	49.7%	4.09
Protect natural and cultural resources	3.5%	6.3%	18.9%	27.6%	43.7%	4.02
Increase property values	4.4%	5.8%	21.3%	29.2%	39.4%	3.93
Attract tourists to the region	8.9%	11.3%	20.9%	21.9%	36.9%	3.66
Educate people about the environment	7.1%	10.5%	24.9%	24.5%	32.9%	3.66
Help local and regional economic development	5.0%	10.9%	30.3%	25.6%	28.1%	3.61
Increase the understanding and tolerance of others	7.9%	13.4%	30.9%	21.0%	27.0%	3.46
Attract new businesses	13.1%	20.2%	32.2%	14.7%	19.8%	3.08

Respondents statewide rated the top two benefits equally, *promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity* (85.6% agree/strongly agree) and *provide opportunities for family interaction* (86.3% agree/strongly agree). In the number three spot, 83.4% agree/strongly agree that *parks, recreation areas and open space make cities and regions better places to live*, by all definitions, the basic “quality of life” statement.



There is not one single item in this list of thirteen recreation benefits that scored lower than a mean value of three indicating that recreation benefits are important and are a concept these respondents are more than likely to adopt.

*Skateboard parks provide children and teens a safe place to enjoy this high energy activity.*  
[Courtesy of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Dept.]



*Canoers enjoying an Arizona lake.*  
[Courtesy of AGFD]

## Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities

This survey item asked respondents to rate how often they currently participate in 22 different outdoor recreation activity categories.

22 Outdoor Recreation Categories Used in this Survey			
1	Play a sport such as baseball, football, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming in a pool	12	Participate in a water activity where a motor was used such as motor boating, water skiing, jet skiing
2	Participate in an outdoor activity that requires being on your feet such as hiking, jogging, backpacking	13	Go to a dog park
3	Go driving in a motorized vehicle on maintained roads for recreational purposes such as sightseeing or driving for pleasure	14	Go target shooting (rifle, pistol, shotgun)
4	Go riding on something that does not have a motor such as bicycling, mountain biking, or horseback riding	15	Participate in a winter activity such as skiing, sledding, playing in the snow
5	Visit a natural or cultural feature such as a park, botanical garden, scenic feature or archaeological site	16	Participate in a nature study or environmental education activity
6	Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	17	Go tent camping
7	Attend an outdoor event such as a sporting event, concert, or festival	18	Go RV camping
8	Go picnicking	19	Go hunting
9	Go off-road driving in a recreational motorized vehicle such as an ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile, sand rail or 4-wheel drive vehicle	20	Go rock or wall climbing
10	Participate in a water activity that does not involve anything with a motor such as kayaking, canoeing, tubing, sailing, or swimming in a lake or stream	21	Participate in an extreme sport such as BMX racing, snowboarding, or rock crawling
11	Go fishing	22	Go geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)

In addition, respondents were asked if they will participate more, less, or the same in these activities over the next five years. The “future increase column” on the far right of the following table shows the percentage of respondents indicating they will participate in the activity more in the next five years in Arizona. The survey did not ask what conditions would encourage more frequent use, e.g., opportunities closer to home, provision of specific or better facilities, yet does indicate a likely future trend for that activity.



*RV camping at Picacho Peak State Park north of Tucson.*

This type of information can help recreation providers and land managers gauge Arizona residents' current level of participation in various outdoor recreation activities, as well as help predict the future participation levels, or demands, for these activities. The following table shows the statewide results. Chapter 6 provides interesting aspects of recreation participation information by region and demographics, and also details Arizona recreation providers' assessments of current and future participation rates by their “customer base.”

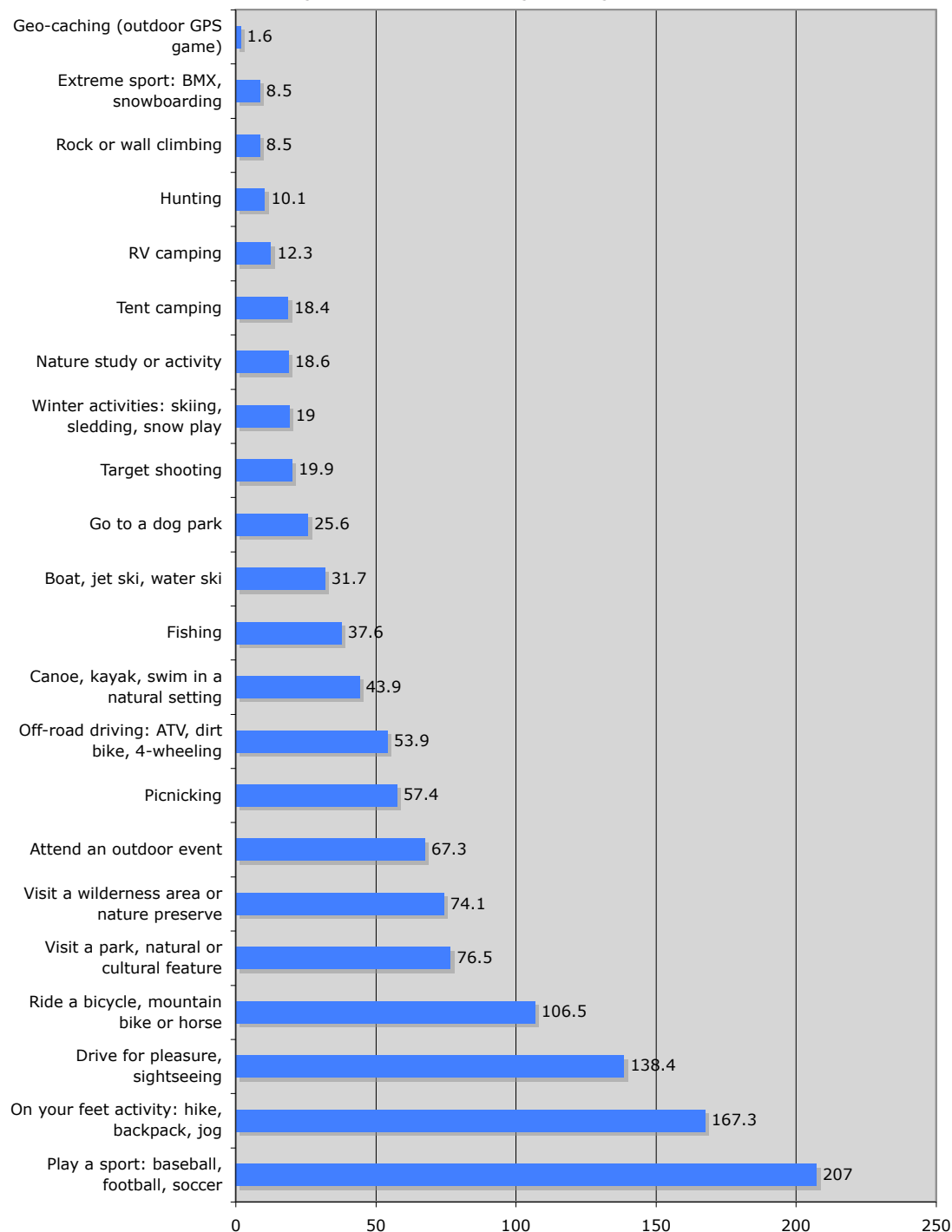
**Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation Rates — Current and Future**

<b>Current Participation Rate</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Once a year</b>	<b>Few times a year</b>	<b>Once a month</b>	<b>Once a week</b>	<b>Twice a week</b>	<b>Mean # of days/visits/ year</b>	<b>Percent who say use will increase in future</b>
<i>Average Number of Days per calendar year</i>	<i>0 days</i>	<i>1 day</i>	<i>5 days</i>	<i>12 days</i>	<i>52 days</i>	<i>130 days</i>		
<b>Recreation Category</b>	<i>No Use</i>	<i>Low Use</i>	<i>Moderate Use</i>		<i>High Use</i>			<b>%</b>
Play a sport: baseball, football	34.7%	3.2%	16.2%	12.6%	14.7%	18.7%	34.25	33.7%
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	25.3%	7.4%	23.7%	19.1%	9.9%	14.6%	27.68	38.4%
Driving in motorized vehicle for sightseeing, pleasure	16.3%	5.9%	29.7%	26.3%	13.1%	8.7%	22.9	34.1%
Riding on something non-motorized: bike, horse	50.9%	5.4%	17.2%	10.7%	6.5%	9.3%	17.62	36.5%
Visit a natural or cultural feature: park, arch. site	15.0%	14.3%	42.3%	17.9%	6.6%	3.7%	12.65	47.9%
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	25.5%	14.7%	35.1%	14.7%	5.5%	4.4%	12.25	47.4%
Attend an outdoor event: sporting, concert, festival	27.2%	13.2%	34.9%	15.8%	5.4%	3.5%	11.13	48.6%
Picnicking	22.6%	6.9%	39.7%	16.6%	4.6%	1.8%	9.49	40.6%
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	67.0%	4.3%	12.3%	8.4%	4.1%	3.9%	8.93	24.1%
Participate in non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	55.0%	8.9%	22.2%	8.1%	3.0%	2.7%	7.26	33.2%
Fishing	65.6%	7.0%	15.0%	6.6%	3.6%	2.1%	6.22	33.3%
Participate in motorized water activity: boat, water ski, jet ski	70.7%	6.0%	13.7%	5.1%	2.5%	2.0%	5.25	30.3%
Go to a dog park	82.2%	4.3%	6.1%	3.2%	2.4%	1.8%	4.24	18.2%
Target shooting	74.8%	4.6%	12.3%	5.3%	2.3%	0.6%	3.28	17.9%
Participate in winter activity: skiing, sledding, snow play	62.3%	13.6%	19.9%	2.2%	1.0%	1.0%	3.15	31.3%
Nature study/ environmental education activity	66.8%	11.7%	15.4%	4.0%	1.3%	0.8%	3.08	34.0%
Tent camping	66.5%	8.2%	17.8%	5.5%	1.4%	0.5%	3.05	32.0%
RV camping	75.7%	4.6%	14.0%	4.8%	0.7%	0.3%	2.03	25.6%
Hunting	88.7%	3.5%	4.3%	2.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.67	10.9%
Rock or wall climbing	86.0%	5.0%	5.4%	2.5%	0.9%	0.3%	1.41	15.0%
Participate in an extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	91.7%	2.3%	3.5%	1.5%	0.4%	0.6%	1.4	9.6%
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	95.8%	1.6%	1.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.27	16.7%

Several of the activities show at least some level of participation by 75% or greater of the majority of residents, such as hiking, picnicking, visiting a park or museum, and driving for pleasure. A few of the activities show at least some level of participation by half (50%) of Arizonans, such as playing sports, bike riding, visiting a nature preserve or wilderness area, and attending an outdoor event. These are generally the traditional recreation activities. However, most activities in this list are participated in by less than half of all Arizonans, and several by less than 20%.

**Recreation User Days** (or recreation user visits) is a planning tool used by recreation planners and managers and can provide them with a general sense of how many people participate in a particular recreation activity, and can also help estimate the extent of potential impacts to a user's experience (crowding, conflicts, access) and to the resources (natural and cultural resources, facilities, staffing) required to conduct or participate in the activity. For example, in one year there are 18,400,000 recreation user days of tent camping in Arizona.

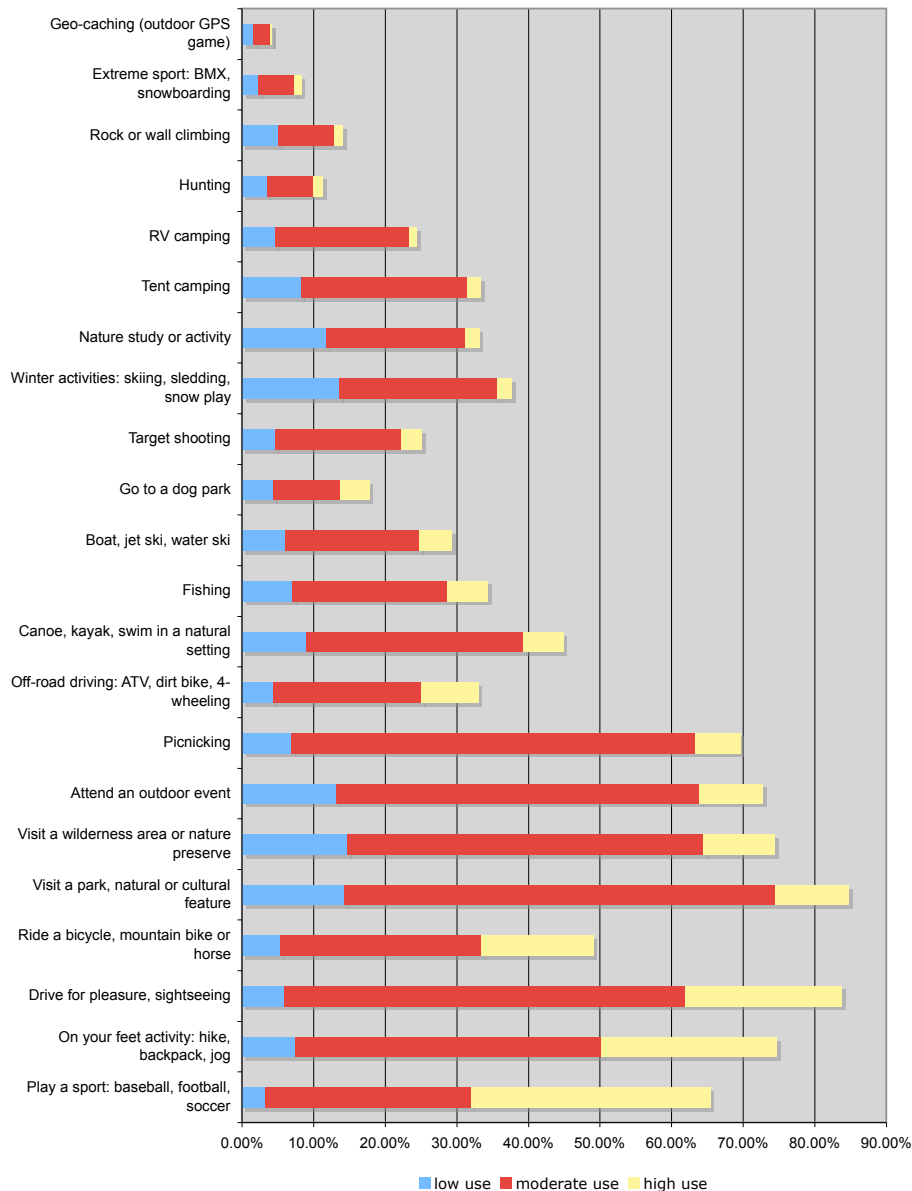
**Statewide Recreation User Days or Visits per Year by Activity (in millions)**



## Frequency of Participation

Another key factor to consider when planning for facilities or staffing and management needs, is the frequency or level of use of participation. While 20% to 30% of the population may participate in a particular activity sometime during a given year, maybe 8% does this activity at least one or two times a week (52-130 or more times a year). This frequency rate may result in a greater number of people (recreation days) on the ground versus another activity more people may participate in but may do so only occasionally. The next chart reflects the percentage of Arizonans, divided into high, moderate and low use, participating in outdoor recreation activities during the past twelve months. High use equates to those who said they participate in an activity once or twice a week (at least 52-130 times a year), moderate use equates to a few times a year to once a month (approximately 5-12 times a year), and low use equates to once a year. For example, 33.4% of Arizonans said they tent camp—8.2% go once a year, 23.3% go 5-12 times a year and 1.9% go 52-130 times a year.

**Annual Participation in Activity by Level of Use: Percent of Low, Moderate and High Use**



### Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities

Respondents were asked how much they thought they would participate in a particular activity in the next five years in Arizona. The next chart shows the percentage that said they would participate **more** in a particular activity than they did in the past 12 months. Most remaining percentages were for those who said participation would be the **same**; only 1-4% of people said use would be **less**. For example, the chart below shows 32% of people said they would participate in tent camping **more** in the future. According to the preceding chart, 33.4% of people said they tent camp, so only 1.4% said they would participate in tent camping the **same** amount (or less) in the future.

